SAFETY AND VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Director: Mr Guy Lamb

Initiative Profile

Scholars at UCT have been working on issues relating to safety and violence for decades, but collaborative research across disciplines was infrequent. The Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) was formally established in April 2011 as one of four interdisciplinary Strategic Initiatives, located in the Office of the Vice Chancellor. SaVI’s vision is to work towards safe communities, where freedom and security are the norm, rather than the exception. In this regard SaVI facilitates interdisciplinary research and debate across the university with a focus on understanding and preventing violence, and promoting safety. The Initiative brings together scholars from a number of departments, centres and units at UCT. It also works closely with provincial and national government and civil society organisations in terms of research and violence prevention interventions.

Preventing violence against women and children is a key area of concern for SaVI. In 2014 SaVI was commissioned by national government’s Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Violence against Women and Children and the United Nations Children’s Fund to undertake interdisciplinary research on the determinants of violence against women and children in South Africa. This project has been run in partnership with the Children’s Institute and draws on expertise from: Centre for Social Science Research, Department of Psychology, Gender Health and Justice Research Unit, Division of Nursing and Midwifery and the Human Sciences Research Council. The project has generated evidence-based analysis, predictive statistical models and will make recommendations to the IMC on how to reduce and prevent violence against women and children. Publications from this project will be launched in 2015.

SaVI has undertaken research and hosted a number of events on gang violence and the prevention thereof in the Western Cape. SaVI works closely with non-governmental organisations that focus on youth violence prevention. In this regard, SaVI has partnered with Amandla EduFootball and the International Committee of the Red Cross to explore the impact of sport-based violence prevention, and initiated a longitudinal research survey in Gugulethu and Manenberg to ascertain the impact of youth violence prevention interventions in this area. In addition, through research and analysis, SaVI actively supported the work of the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Police Inefficiency and a Breakdown in Relations between SAPS and the Community in Khayelitsha.

Initiative Statistics

Staff

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<td>Steering Committee</td>
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<td>Honorary Associates</td>
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<td>Research Assistants</td>
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<td>Administrator</td>
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Postdoctoral Fellows

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Research Fields and Staff

Steering Committee

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LILLIAN ARTZ
Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit

DR JULIE BERG
Centre of Criminology and Department of Public Law

DR MERCY BROWN-LUTHANGO
African Centre for Cities

DR LEON HOLTZHAUSEN
Department of Social Development

MR GUY LAMB
SaVI Director – violence prevention; arms control; policing; peacebuilding

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDREW NICOL
Department of Surgery

PROFESSOR JEREMY SEEKINGS
Centre for Social Science Research and Department of Sociology
PROFESSOR MARK SHAW  
Centre of Criminology

PROFESSOR CRAIN SOUDIEN  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Transformation and Social Responsiveness

PROFESSOR SEBASTIAN VAN AS  
Department of Pediatric Surgery  
Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital

PROFESSOR ERELNA VAN DER SPUY  
Centre of Criminology and Department of Public Law

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CATHY WARD  
Department of Psychology

Honorary Associates

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FLORETTA BOONZAIER  
Department of Psychology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDY DAWES  
Department of Psychology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SINEGUGU DUMA  
Division of Nursing and Midwifery

MS LAURA FREEMAN  
Department of Political Studies

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RAJENDRAN GOVENDER  
Department of Sociology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SHANAAZ MATHEWS  
Children’s Institute

DR DON PINNOCK  
Centre of Criminology

PROFESSOR CLIFFORD SHEARING  
Institute for Humanities in Africa

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

DR SIMON HOWELL  
Community policing; criminology; politics; drugs and drug culture

Research Assistants

MS LAUREN BAERECKE  
Violence against women and children

MS CLAIRE MCDONALD  
Policing; violence against women and children

MR DANIEL MOODY  
Youth violence

MS INGE PAPP  
Youth violence

MS CAITLYN TONKIN  
Community policing

MS GISELLE WARTON  
Violence against women and children

Administrator

MS LAMEEZ MOTA

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RESEARCH OUTPUT

 Chapters in books


Articles in peer-reviewed journals


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